

2: Batchelor M-5 (1877-1924)1927
AB6 Ainu AB6

342



A SMALL HUT

462
446
302
291



WOMEN POUNDING MILLET

226 spearing, *shune marek*, as described later was in active use for the capture
 227 of salmon coming together in spawning grounds. The use of the *marek* was,
 [562] though not invariably, confined to men. Taboo was placed specifically on
 use by women at the named spawning grounds of dog salmon controlled by
 the male members of the local group. The *marek* was as important a fishing
 implement to men as the basket-trap, *urai*, was to women. What characterized
 the former as distinct from the latter was that with it any sort of fish could
 be captured: fresh-run brisk salmon still untinged for spawning, salmon
 ready to spawn or under spawning activities, or the fish in hiding in the
 daytime or in activity in the night. In the use of the spear skill played a
 greater part than with the *urai* and other kinds of fishing gear. It seems
 that as a result the amount of catch differed considerably with different per-
 sons. It is said that the catch in one night varied from 10-15 at the minimum
 to 40-50 at the very maximum. It was to supplement the catch with the
marek by each family that the fish-trap, *urai*, was used.

226 The Torch.

227 The period from mid- or late November, when silvery salmon appeared
 • 416 in the rivers, to the middle or end of December, when the fish had finished
 [221] running, was the later salmon season. During this period the Ainu manipu-
 lated the *marek* by night with the aid of torch lights, *shune*. Torch-light
 spearing was more effective at and about the spawning areas where the sal-
 mon came together. The torch employed for the purpose was made of a
 [324] bundle of dried *Miscanthus* or of strips of dried birch bark. Among the Ainu
 226 on the lower course of the Tokapchi as well as those on the Azuma, the
 [501] Mukawa and the Saru, torch-light fishing in a dugout was usually conducted
 by a team of three—the spearer, *naniun*, at the bow, the pole-operator, *umun*,
 at the stern, and the torch-holder, *shuneani*, standing between. When not
 going by dugout as on the upper Tokapchi and the Otopuke, the team would
 consist of the spearer and the torch-holder. The torch-holder and the pole-
 [462] operator were by custom female, each team generally being formed by
 members of the same family.

226 The Peep-fishing Hut.

349 The peep-fishing hut, *worun chise*, was a simple construction erected on
 piles over the stream, linked with the bank by means of a gangway (Fig. 2,
 [462] b. It was used by a single male, who sat in it and speared with the *marek*.
 [324] The walls and the roofing were of butter-bur leaves or other leafy twigs, and
 part of the floor was cut open for the fisherman to peep through. The hut
 was built over the run, *pet netoba*, about the spot where ascending fish were
 in the habit of halting, *chep kusushi*. The same hut was used for dog salmon
 and cherry salmon alike. Peep-fishing was well adapted to the habit of the